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Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

## Identical letters dated 2 May 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am compelled to draw your attention today to yet another act of collective punishment being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people and to place on record the adamant rejection of the Palestinian leadership of this latest illegal, provocative act as well as all other illegal actions that continue to be perpetrated by the occupying Power.

On Sunday, 1 May, the Israeli Minister of Finance declared the suspension of the transfer of taxes that are collected on behalf of the Palestinian Authority by Israel, the occupying Power, in line with interim agreements concluded between the two sides. When publicizing the decision, Israeli officials have claimed that this illegal measure is being undertaken in response to the announcement of an agreement regarding Palestinian unity and reconciliation. This provocative Israeli declaration is a clear reflection of the malicious intentions of the occupying Power towards the Palestinian people and their leadership, and is unquestionably a consequence of international inaction towards Israel's consistent violations of its obligations under international law, including its continued illegal settlement activities throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which has emboldened Israel's defiance and impunity.

Suspending the transfer of tax revenues and other levies due to the Palestinian National Authority constitutes an illegal act of piracy. It must be confronted by the international community, as it represents yet another deliberate illegal act by the occupying Power against the Palestinian people. Moreover, the withholding of tax income will have detrimental consequences for the lives and living standards of the Palestinian civilian population across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, constituting a clear act of collective punishment, which is strictly prohibited under international humanitarian law. At the same time, this provocative act will seriously undermine the widely recognized and internationally supported



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State-building efforts of the Palestinian Authority. Such an action also constitutes deliberate Israeli interference in the internal affairs of the Palestinian people, and the pretexts and threats being used by the occupying Power are similar to those used over the years in its long-standing attempts to thwart the two-State solution for the benefit of perpetuating the status quo of its illegitimate occupation, settlements and oppression of the Palestinian people and suppression of their right to self-determination and independence.

The Palestinian people have suffered the devastating consequences of internal strife for over four years, and they have unanimously called for an end to the division. Moreover, an international consensus has long been voiced on the necessity of achieving Palestinian unity and reconciliation, particularly for the achievement of the legitimate national aspirations of the Palestinian people. Thus, the recent announcement by the Palestinian leadership on the signing of a unity agreement, as a result of serious intra-Palestinian dialogue and ongoing Egyptian efforts, has received support from throughout the international community. Accordingly, we welcome the recent statement in this regard by Your Excellency, reflecting a responsible position in support of Palestinian unity within the framework of the Palestinian Authority, led by President Mahmoud Abbas and the commitments of the Palestine Liberation Organization. In this regard, we must recall that the calls for Palestinian unity have been consistently made not only in the region by the Arab countries and the League of Arab States but also internationally, particularly as called for by the Security Council in resolution 1860 (2009) and in Quartet statements, including the statement of 19 March 2010 in Moscow.

Now that Palestinian political factions are poised to sign a unity agreement, it would be entirely unacceptable to permit Israel, the occupying Power, to interfere in this internal Palestinian affair in order to promote its own illegitimate agenda and at the same time undermine the efforts to resume the peace process towards the achievement of an end to the occupation that began in 1967 and the conclusion of a peace settlement. Giving audience or credence to the provocative arguments, incitement and threats being made by Israel, which has consistently and blatantly violated all of its obligations under international law, would be totally unacceptable and would risk completely sabotaging the serious efforts being made by the Palestinian leadership under President Abbas and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad for the realization of peace and security. Instead, Israel, the occupying Power, must be compelled to comply with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, and should be reminded that the shortest path to peace is through the fulfilment and endorsement of these obligations. The international community must put an end to these ongoing Israeli attempts to divert attention from the real priority, which is achieving peace in the region by ending its 44 years of belligerent occupation and ending its subjugation of the Palestinian nation.

The picture has never been so clear, and the world has never been as united in endorsing this vision for achieving peace. At this stage in history, turning the clock backwards is neither possible nor acceptable. The Palestinian people will continue their march towards their freedom, statehood and justice. The international community, including the United Nations, and in particular the Security Council, now have the moral and legal obligation to fulfil their responsibilities for the realization of this historic and just solution, and this requires immediate efforts to end Israel's contempt for international law and truly promote peace.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 389 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 8 April 2011 (A/ES-10/516-S/2011/229), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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**General Assembly**
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**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Security Council**
**Sixty-sixth year**

## Identical letters dated 13 May 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

This week, the Palestinian people are solemnly observing the passage of 63 years since the 1948 Al-Nakba, by which the majority of the Palestinian people were expelled or fled in fear from their homeland of Palestine, becoming an uprooted, dispossessed and displaced people. Those refugees and their descendants number nearly 5 million people, constituting the largest and most protracted refugee problem in the world. At this time, the Palestinian people reflect on their history and their present conditions with deep sorrow as they continue to suffer grave hardships in their ongoing quest to realize their legitimate national aspirations for self-determination, freedom, justice, peace and security in their homeland.

The hardships of Al-Nakba continue for the Palestinian people as they continue to live either in exile as refugees throughout the region and the Diaspora or under the belligerent military occupation of Israel, the occupying Power, since 1967 in the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, forced to endure the systematic violation of their fundamental human rights and war crimes at the hands of the occupying Power for nearly 44 years. The persistence of such Israeli human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law is a clear confirmation of Israel's total disrespect for international law and the countless United Nations resolutions calling for respect for its legal obligations. It is also a clear confirmation of the deep contempt of the occupying Power for the rights and very existence of the Palestinian people, whom it continues to collectively punish, colonize, humiliate, intimidate and subjugate to all forms of oppression. The regrettable inability of the international community to seriously confront Israel's defiance has only fuelled its intransigence and impunity, compounding the conflict and the suffering and cyclical crises imposed on the Palestinian people and the region as a whole.



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Today, the Palestinian people and their leadership once again call upon the international community to assume its responsibilities vis-à-vis the question of Palestine and to exert all necessary efforts to advance the achievement of a comprehensive peace settlement that justly resolves all aspects of the question of Palestine, including ensuring the realization by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination and freedom in their independent State of Palestine on the basis of the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and ensuring a just and lasting solution to the plight of the Palestine refugees. The international community must act upon the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the rule of international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions to bring an end to the injustices imposed on the Palestinian people for more than 60 years and an end to the denial and gross violation of their inalienable human rights.

In this connection, we condemn the use of force and intimidation by Israel, the occupying Power, against peaceful Palestinian demonstrators throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem, where civilian demonstrators have been shot at with rubber bullets and tear gas by the Israeli occupying forces and several have been arrested. The right of these demonstrators to peaceful protest must be fully respected as they continue expressing their rejection of the Israeli occupation; calling for a complete end to the occupation and to all of its attendant illegal policies and practices, including the colonization of the Palestinian land, the imprisonment of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including women and children, and all other measures of collective punishment, foremost among them the illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip; calling for justice; and calling for the realization of their inalienable human rights. The Palestinian leadership totally rejects any attempts by the occupying Power to suppress the expression of our people for their legitimate national rights and aspirations, and continues to call for their protection under international humanitarian law.

As such, we will continue to call for the full cessation of Israel's settlement colonization campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around Occupied East Jerusalem. Such flagrant breaches of international law and United Nations resolutions and defiance of the international consensus in this regard must not be tolerated. These actions are gravely undermining the prospects for achieving the two-State solution and are poisoning the environment between the two sides, preventing the resumption of peace negotiations on the basis of the internationally supported terms of reference. The construction of settlements and the continued confiscation of Palestinian land and demolition of Palestinian homes and properties and revocation of residency rights are all illegal measures clearly aimed at altering the demographic composition and character of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Such unlawful measures have further isolated Occupied East Jerusalem from its natural Palestinian environs and are seriously destroying the Territory's contiguity, integrity, unity and viability. At the same time, just as in 1948, the occupying Power's unlawful construction of the Wall, which is clearly part of the settlement campaign, is causing entire communities to be destroyed and thousands of Palestinian families to be displaced, and continues to cause serious harm to the socio-economic conditions of the Palestinian people.

In addition, we reiterate our calls for a complete end to Israel's shameful and illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip, which continues in collective punishment of the entire Palestinian civilian population there and in defiance of the calls from all corners of the world for an end to this inhumane siege. Moreover, Israeli officials

continue to incite and provoke with irresponsible, illogical and hostile statements in response to the recent reconciliation among Palestinian political factions, a reconciliation long called for and deeply desired by the Palestinian people, whose unity is an utmost priority for the Palestinian leadership. In this connection, Israel also continues to withhold Palestinian tax revenues that are necessary for the effective functioning of the Palestinian Authority and its institutions. This unlawful and provocative act is yet another act of collective punishment that is further aggravating the already difficult financial situation of the Palestinian people. We call on the international community to exert the necessary efforts to compel Israel to release all Palestinian funds and to end its illegal blockade and all other acts aimed at subjugating, humiliating and oppressing the Palestinian people.

These unlawful acts are compounding the hardship of the Palestinian people and are seriously sabotaging the efforts to achieve the two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the 1967 borders and a just and lasting peace throughout the region. We thus reaffirm that the cessation of Israeli violations of international law is essential for salvaging the hopes and potential for peace and achieving justice for the Palestinian people.

The international community must find the will to do what is necessary to uphold international law and to help the two sides seize the opportunity for peace that exists before us. This requires urgent efforts to ensure compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions and its legal obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and the human rights covenants. The United Nations, including the Security Council, has an important role to play in this regard and must exercise responsibility to address this ongoing crisis with a view to achieving a just and lasting resolution this year. Courage and leadership is needed at this critical juncture in our region to ultimately end this prolonged tragedy and bring peace and security to the Palestinian and Israeli peoples with the achievement of a lasting, comprehensive peace based on the two-State solution of an independent, sovereign and viable State of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security with Israel on the basis of the 1967 borders, and the achievement of a just solution to the problem of the Palestine refugees in accordance with resolution 194 (III) of 1948.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 390 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 2 May 2011 (A/ES-10/517-S/2011/280) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.